

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS**

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,)	
)	
Plaintiff,)	
)	
vs.)	Case No. 07-cr-30180-SMY
)	
LARRY G. TINKER,)	
)	
Defendant.)	

ORDER

YANDLE, District Judge:

Before the Court is Defendant Larry Tinker's *pro se* motion for copies (Doc. 183). Tinker seeks copies of all pleadings filed by his former counsel in this case. Defendants have no constitutional right to a complimentary copy of any document in their court files. *See United States v. Groce*, 838 F. Supp. 411, 413, 414 (E.D. Wis. 1993). Thus, before providing copies free of charge, a district court may require the requestor to show: (1) that he has exhausted *all* other means of access to his files (*i.e.*, through his trial and appellate counsel); (2) that he is financially unable to secure access to his court files (*i.e.*, through a showing similar to that required in 28 U.S.C. § 1915(a)(2) which includes a certified copy of the prisoner's trust account for the previous six-month period prior to filing); and (3) that the documents requested are necessary for some specific non-frivolous court action. *See United States v. Wilkinson*, 618 F.2d 1215, 1218-19 (7th Cir. 1980); *Rush v. United States*, 559 F.2d 455, 459 (7th Cir. 1977). These minimal requirements do not impose any substantial burden to prisoners who desire their records be sent to them at government expense.

Tinker has not made the requisite showing. He has not demonstrated through sufficient evidence that he is financially unable to secure access to his court files, that he has exhausted all

other means of obtaining the documents, or that the documents are necessary for a specific court action. Therefore, the motions are **DENIED**. If Tinker wishes to pay for a copy of the requested documents, he will need to send a letter to the Clerk of Court and request the cost of production.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

DATED: January 18, 2022

The image shows a handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Staci M. Yandle". The signature is written over a circular official seal. The seal features an eagle with a shield on its chest, holding an olive branch and arrows. The text "UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT" is written in a circle around the eagle, and "SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS" is written at the bottom of the seal.

STACI M. YANDLE
United States District Judge